

(b) Since large number of engineering industries are in Central Public Sector, the Department of Heavy Industry has taken steps to restructure and modernize these companies with a view to make them globally competitive. A turnaround strategy has already been approved for some of the CPSUs involving organizational and financial restructuring and manpower rationalization. The Government is also providing funds to rehabilitate the viable sick industries. So far 25 CPSUs from engineering industry have been referred to BIFR. The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions or rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sectors.

(c) to (e) The details of number of units closed during the last three years, the workers affected thereof, and the outstanding bank credit in engineering industry during last three years are as under:

	1998	1999	2000
No. of Units closed* \$	50	29	17
Workers affected*	2522	761	450
Outstanding bank credit (Rs. crore)**	22,833	21,513	23,069

*Source: Labour Bureau, Shimla **Source: Reserve Bank of India \$ The units covered are those covered by Industrial Disputes Act 1947.

Meeting on copyright piracy

1717. PROF: (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether to encounter the rise in crimes of copyright piracy and infringement, a meeting of State officials was recently held in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the decisions taken at the meet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) A Conference of officials of the State Governments and Union Territories was convened on 12th June, 2001 by the Ministry of Human Resource Development with the purpose of creating awareness relating to the Copyright Act and for interaction with copyright industry organisations. There was broad consensus on strengthening the enforcement of copyright.

[7 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

States and Union Territories have been asked by the Ministry of Human Resource Development to create a special cell in the police headquarters for effective enforcement of copyright laws as also to identify nodal officers in their administration to facilitate proper co-ordination between industry organizations and the enforcement agencies,

Ban on Import of SSI Items

† 1718. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have imposed ban on the import of items falling under the gamut of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps to be taken by Government to bring the small scale industries out of this crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) India has removed all quantitative restrictions being maintained earlier on balance of payment grounds as part of economic liberalization policy under implementation since 1991 and as part of international commitments. There is therefore no ban on import of any items reserved for small scale industries.

However, Government has put in place several measures to help SSIs become globally competitive. These include focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use" of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalization. A comprehensive policy package for the development of SSIs had been announced on 30th August, 2000. The policy package will enhance the competitiveness of SSIs through easier access to credit, availability of collateral free composite loan up to Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technology upgradation and improved infrastructure.

Private participation in defence production

1719. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to dereserve defence production and open it to the private participation through licensing;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.